



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/535,405	05/18/2005	Brian Arthur Cavill	15430.0001	5997
27890	7590	01/10/2006	EXAMINER	
STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP 1330 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20036			TRAN, HOANG Q	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2874	

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 10 contains the trademark/trade name Ductal. Where a trademark or trade name is used in a claim as a limitation to identify or describe a particular material or product, the claim does not comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. See *Ex parte Simpson*, 218 USPQ 1020 (Bd. App. 1982). The claim scope is uncertain since the trademark or trade name cannot be used properly to identify any particular material or product. A trademark or trade name is used to identify a source of goods, and not the goods themselves. Thus, a trademark or trade name does not identify or describe the goods associated with the trademark or trade name. In the present case, the trademark/trade name is used to identify/describe the material of the protective device and, accordingly, the identification/description is indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the US Patent to Briscoe (6,431,216).

In terms of Claim 1, Briscoe teaches a protective device for use in the protection of at least a portion of an elongated article (Fig 1), the protective device including a main body, first and second parts which connectible together such that (Fig 8), in an assembled position the main body has a chamber therein, the first and second parts each having two longitudinal extending side edge portions respective side edge portions of the first part being adapted to cooperate with respective side edge portions of the second part to connect the two parts together in the assembled position, said first and second parts overlapping when the assembled position and being connected together by relative movement in the axial direction so as to adopt the assembled position (Fig 5).

As for Claim 2, Briscoe teaches the device of claim 1, wherein the first and second parts are partially circular when viewed in cross-section, the first part comprising a major segment of a circle and the second part forming a minor segment of a circle (Fig 8).

As for Claim 3, Briscoe teaches the device of claim 1, wherein the side edge portions of the first or second part include a recessed section for receiving the side edge portion of the other part (Fig 7 [38 and 40]).

As for Claim 4, Briscoe teaches the device of claim 1, wherein when the assembled position the main body is open at least one end (Fig 6).

As for Claim 5, Briscoe teaches the device of claim 1, wherein the when in the assembled position the main body is open at both ends (Fig 6).

As for Claim 6, Briscoe teaches the device of claim 1, wherein one of the ends of the main body is belled for receiving the other end of an adjacent device (Fig 6).

As for Claim 7, Briscoe teaches the device of claim 1, further including insulation on the internal surface of one or both parts of the main body (Col 3 [20-40]).

As for Claim 9, Briscoe teaches the device of claim 1, wherein the main body of the device is formed from material know as reactive powder concrete or ultra high performance fiber reinforced concrete (Col 4 [1-5]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Briscoe (6,431,216) in view of the US Patent to Muller (6,730,846).

With respect to Claim 8, Briscoe teaches the protective device of claim 1. Briscoe does not teach a protective device of claim 1, further including a locating element which projects from the inner wall of one of the two parts. Muller does teach a protective device including a locating element in order to properly align the internal wiring. A motivation for such an application would be to prevent interference between the outside layers of the protective device with the actually wiring/fiber during transmission. This

Art Unit: 2874

application also increases transmission quality since the wiring or fibers inside the protective device is properly align. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to apply the teaching of Muller to the protective device of Briscoe to further ensure high quality transmission of the fiber/wiring cables.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoang Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-5049. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on 571-272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ht



**SUNG PAK
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Application/Control Number: 10/535,405

Page 6

Art Unit: 2874

Hoang Tran

AU 2874

January 6, 2006

SUNG PAK
PRIMARY EXAMINER